

**DECISION NOTICE**  
**STOCKING OF HATCHERY WESTLOPE CUTTHROAT (M012 STRAIN) INTO**  
**THE SOUTH FORK JUDITH RIVER**

**Water Name:**

Name: South Fork Judith; Location: T11N,R11E,Sec8  
Water Code: 161820  
County: Judith Basin County

Name: Cabin Creek; Location: T11N,R11E,Sec28  
Water Code: 160720  
County: Judith Basin County

Name: Smith Creek; Location: T11N,R11E,Sec7  
Water Code: 163480  
County: Judith Basin County

The upper reaches and tributaries of the South Fork Judith River (SF) hold slightly hybridized (generally < 5%) westslope cutthroat trout (WCT; *Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*). The SF downstream of its confluence with Deadhorse Creek in past years has been dominated by highly hybridized fishes and rainbow trout.

To stop continued hybridization and upstream colonization by non-native fishes a barrier to upstream migration was constructed in the fall of 2006. After construction of the barrier, highly hybridized fishes and brook trout were removed from approximately 4 miles of the mainstem SF and the majority of Bluff Mountain, Cabin, Cross, and Smith creeks using electrofishing equipment.

To prevent recolonization of brook trout into newly empty habitat and to help “swamp” out remaining rainbow trout genetics, westslope cutthroat of hatchery origin will be stocked (a total of 5,000 to 10,000 1.5” fish in the fall of 2007 and 5,000 to 10,000 3 to 4” fish in the spring of 2008) in the mainstem SF, Cabin, and Smith creeks. These sites will also be stocked at similar densities in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

**Description of Public Notification/Review Process:** The EA was out for public review on the MFWP web site on 4/11/2007.

**Summary of Public Comments:** No comments were received

**Recommendation:** Complete transfer as described in Environmental Assessment.



**6/29/2007**

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**Regional Fisheries Manager**

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**Date**